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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Dear Bishop Hand:

Thank you for your recent message to the President regarding Raoul Wallenberg. The President, the Department of State, and Congress share a strong concern about the fate of Mr. Wallenberg and take every opportunity to make this concern known to the Soviet authorities.

As you may know, President Reagan signed into law in October 1981 a bill conferring honorary U.S. citizenship upon Raoul Wallenberg. Honoring Mr. Wallenberg in this fashion was an important symbolic act because it reiterated our great admiration for his courage and dedication to humanity. In addition, it stressed our abhorrence for his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet Government.

The U.S. Government has raised Mr. Wallenberg's case with the Soviet officials on numerous occasions. Our efforts to resolve the tragic mystery of Mr. Wallenberg's fate will continue until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification of their actions in his case. As President Reagan stated in his January 17, 1985 message on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance, "We will continue to insist that the Soviet Union has a moral obligation to answer, once and for all, the questions we have about his fate."

We continue to work closely with the Swedish Government to investigate reports alleging that Mr. Wallenberg might still be alive. Thus far, we have been unable to substantiate this information. Nevertheless, we will maintain a cooperative efforts with the Swedish Government and other interested parties to seek information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

If we can be of any further assistance to you in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

LS
Louis D. Sell
Bilateral Relations
Office of Soviet Union Affairs

The Most Reverend Lawrence L. Hand,
Bishop,

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
of the Lutheran Church of America,
2900 Queen Lane,

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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